Why Teachers Should Incorporate the Use of a Wiki in Classrooms

According to Cummins, Brown, and Sayers (2007) schools are now expected to develop

twenty-first-century literacy skills, which are what the economy supposedly requires to thrive in

an increasingly competitive global marketplace. These twenty-first-century literacy skills are

heavily dependent on mastery of new technologies. Therefore, instruction must promote active

intelligence. I believe that incorporating the use of a wiki with my students could increase

student motivation. Students may be motivated to write when they are able to publish their work

online for an audience of their peers, parents, and teachers. Meskill and Mossop (as cited in

Cummins, Brown, and Sayers 2007) reported evidence of increased motivation and excitement

for learning as a result of technology use. Students can use a wiki to complete a class project or

research paper on a singular subject. Each student then could visit and contribute to the wikis of

other students in the class, because by design the wiki enables users to create, edit, manipulate,

and collaborate online. Students are learning and building upon their collaborative literacy skills.

Donovan and Bransford (as cited in Cummins, Brown, and Sayers 2007) points out

that a metacognitive or self monitoring approach can help students develop the ability to take

control of their learning.

I believe that infusing technology that is engaging and interactive into our schools will reduce the digital divide and promote cognitive and affective engagement with learning.

Cummins, J., Brown, K., Sayers, D. (2007). Literacy, technology, and diversity: Teaching for  
success in changing times. Pearson Education. Boston, MA.